

## Continental Drift & Plate Tectonics

300 million years ago, all of Earth's land was joined together in one big supercontinent called **Pangaea**. Slowly, the continent broke apart and the pieces drifted to where they are today.

### How do we know this is true?

1. The continents fit together like a puzzle
2. Fossils of dinosaurs are the same in South America and Africa
3. Mountains in Eastern Canada and Western Europe are the same
4. Evidence of ice sheets in Southern South America, Africa, India and Australia – today these places are too warm for ice

### The Idea

Continental drift was first proposed by **Alfred Wegener**. Although he had the above evidence, he couldn't explain how it happened.

### Plate Tectonics

Canadian J. Tuzo Wilson recognized that hot spots could form deep in the Earth's mantle, and that currents circulated above these hot spots (like boiling water). These swirling currents are called **convection currents**.